Core Modules

- AR2102 People, Ritual and Death: Life in Early Prehistoric Europe
- AR246 Castles, Colonists and Crannogs 1100-1350

Options

- AR250 Sacred Places and Christian Buildings in Medieval Ireland
- TI254 Space, Place and the Irish Landscape
- AR2101 Early Kingship: From Chaos to Cosmos

**AR2102 People, Ritual and Death: Life in Early Prehistoric Europe**

Module Co-Ordinator: Dr. Stefan Bergh

**Core Module**

This course introduces and evaluates evidence from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods in Europe and beyond, to create a context for the understanding of the early prehistory of Ireland. The overall focus of the course is based on the themes of Life, Ritual and Death and various aspects of these and their interplay over time.

The course is structured per week with a mix of PPT presentations, videos or texts focusing on particular angles of the main themes. The course starts with a focus on the societies of the Mesolithic hunter and gatherers in Western Europe. The origin of farming in Western Asia and the changes that these new lifeways brought to Europe constitutes a central part of the second half of the course. In this section the development of large scale stone built monuments will be explored, and particularly their role in the social and mental landscapes of the societies. Lectures online, 2 on-campus workshops

**AR246 Castles, Colonists and Crannogs 1100-1350**

Course Convenor – Dr. Kieran O’Conor

**Core Module**

This course critically examines the archaeology of Ireland during the high medieval period from c.1100 until the mid-14th century. The background to the coming of the Anglo-Normans to Ireland in 1169 and the impact they had on the landscape are discussed in depth in the first part of the course. Themes for this section of the course will include the role of castles, the manorial economy, trade, the foundation of villages, rural boroughs and towns by mostly English immigrants and the growth of certain cities. Dispersed settlement in Anglo-Norman parts of eastern Ireland will also be explored. In particular, in the first part of the course, the interplay between castle, town and countryside in Anglo-Norman Ireland is examined in detail. It must also be remembered that large parts of Ireland remained in some way under the control of Irish (Gaelic Irish) princes and lords. The Norman conquest in Ireland in the years
After 1169 was only partial, unlike England in 1066 which saw the complete takeover of that country by William the Conqueror. Lectures in this section of the course will examine the nature of Irish settlement in the period under review and will argue that while there was much change, continuity from the pre-Norman early medieval period was seen too. Themes in this part of the course will include the late use of crannogs, ringforts, the Irish adoption of moated sites as princely residences and native agricultural practices. The course will also deal with the changes of the 14th century and the virtual collapse of the Anglo-Norman colony across large parts of Ireland at this time. The last lecture will be a summary of the course outlining the main points made. In particular, it will compare and contrast the landscapes of Gaelic and Anglo-Norman Ireland. Questions such as the recognition of ethnicity and cultural interface in the archaeological record will be addressed in this last lecture.

**AR250 Sacred Places and Christian Buildings in Medieval Ireland**

Module Co-Ordinator: Professor Elizabeth FitzPatrick

**Option Module**

The medieval Church in Europe had a major influence on the development of sacred architecture. This module is an appreciation of built heritage through the study of church buildings and their settings in Ireland between the seventh and the thirteenth century. The Irish ecclesiastical architecture is treated in relation to major developments in Europe, such as the Reform movement, pilgrimage and the emergence of Romanesque and early Gothic. Five themes are explored - enclosure and spatial organisation in early medieval monasteries; organic and stone churches from the seventh to the tenth century; round towers of the tenth to twelfth century; Romanesque church architecture and architectural sculpture in the twelfth century; Cistercian abbeys in Continental Europe and Ireland in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. On completion of the module, it is expected that the student will have an appreciation of the major developments in Irish medieval ecclesiastical buildings within the European context, and skills to read and record the fabric of church buildings, architectural sculpture and associated artefacts. Lectures online, 2 outdoor meetings plus one group discussion class by video.
**TI254** Space, Place and the Irish Landscape

Module Co-Ordinators: Ms. Maggie Ronayne & Professor Ulf Strohmayer

**Option Module**

This module aims to critically explore the historical and contemporary complexities of Irish culture, place and landscape through select case-studies, thematic and/or locational, and through a range of theoretical concerns from both Archaeology and Geography. The module engages the key challenge of carefully contextualising and historicising understandings of landscape, heritage and environment, and exploring urgent contemporary questions of landscape / environment sustainability, governmentality and management. The module will provide an introduction to the various ways in which human societies interact(ed) with their environment, and will be able to provide both chronological depth and thematically-specific case-study knowledge of key sites and spaces across the island of Ireland. Particular attention too will be given to the range of competing discourses on issues of environment, landscape and development in both rural and urban Ireland and their implications for communities in the present and the future. Some of the case studies will be able to provide a long term trajectory of developments (in rural landscapes, urbanisation etc.), while others may choose to focus on other aspects of the physical or social environment. There will be an on-campus field-based learning component to this module over the course of one morning or afternoon.

**AR2101** Early Kingship: From Chaos to Cosmos

Module Co-Ordinator: Mr. Conor Newman

**Option Module**

This course focuses on the earliest chapters of kingship, when the principal role of the king and the institution of kingship was to establish and maintain order (cosmos), and to safeguard against chaos or worldlessness. Underwritten by sacred marriage (hierogamy), the function of kingship was to negotiate and navigate the relationship between culture and nature. The institution finds its archaeological expression in cult centres and ‘royal’ complexes like Tara, Emain and Cruachain, in special objects decorated with symbols that have a complex genesis, and in early mythology. This course, therefore, blends the most up-to-date archaeological investigations of royal sites and complexes, with mythology and symbolism.